

by disposing of lands which may be permanently surplus to Defence requirements, on realisation of market value.

(d) As Defence lands are declared permanently surplus only after taking into account present and future requirements, such contingencies are not likely to arise.

Toll collections for Road Projects

3844. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have proposed setting up of joint ventures with the help of the private sector to raise funds for financing road construction projects;

(b) if so whether they have also called for setting up a revolving fund for toll-based projects and redeploying to collections and other funds generated through advertisements and road-side amenities;

(c) the name of the States sponsoring the move for such ventures to finance road construction;

(d) whether the Government have issued any directions to the State Governments in the matter of toll collections; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) In so far as National Highways are concerned, no proposal has been received from any State to set up joint ventures for financing toll based projects.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). In so far as State roads are concerned, the State Governments have

already been requested to explore the possibility of involving private sector in development and maintenance of State roads.

Foreign Direct Investment from Japan

3845. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japan is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to step up India's exports to Japan and to identify the potential areas of growth and expansion of trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir; rather the investment from Japan to India has been on the rise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides recent policy liberalisations in trade, these include periodical review of bilateral trade, exchange of delegations, participation in international fairs, exhibitions at Japan, etc.

Software Exports to Europe

3846. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Commission (EC) has proposed to set up jointly a centre in India to promote software exports to Europe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE